



Oologah

Observer

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

Why Do They Evangelize?

Jack H. Williams

Many individuals are involved with the work of evangelism. There are those who travel abroad, others are involved in campaigns in the States, many write materials to be used in tracts, many distribute tracts and teach through Bible correspondence courses, others are active in teaching Bible studies in their homes — the list could go on and on. Each of these activities takes time and commitment. The question comes, “Why? Why do such people labor so actively in evangelism?” The Bible gives us many “motivations” for such labors. Let’s notice just a few of these in this brief article.

People Evangelize...Because They Love God. In Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-16, we have recorded the Christian’s “marching orders” — the great commission from our Lord and Savior Jesus to “go” and “teach.” When we look to the commands of Jesus, we have an option. We can either do them or not. But Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Thus, those who love Jesus are active in evangelistic efforts.

People Evangelize...Because They Realize the Judgment to Come. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:10 that “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” to “receive the things done...whether it be good or bad.” He further noted that “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...” (verse 11). If we truly believe the fate of those who are still in sin on the day of judgment, we will be involved in evangelism.

People Evangelize...Because They Stand in Awe of the Love of Christ. “For the love of Christ constraineth us...” (2 Corinthians 5:14). One cannot stand at the foot of the cross and gaze upon the suffering Savior, realizing the great love for mankind that held Him there

and remain uninvolved in reaching those for whom Jesus died! Such love demands action on our part.

People Evangelize...Because They Experience the Joy of Salvation. The Psalmist proclaimed, “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. *Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee*” (Psalm 51:12-13) [emphasis mine - JHW]. As we realize the immeasurable blessing of being free from the guilt and penalty of sin, of having a home eternal in the heavens, we cannot but cry out the message of salvation to a lost and dying world!

God’s Word is filled with the “motivation” for one to evangelize. As one looks upon these the question soon changes from “Why do they evangelize?” to “How can I not evangelize?” What are YOU doing?

According to the Bible, Is It Proper to Use Religious Titles Such as “Father,” “Reverend,” and “Pastor”?

Robin W. Haley

Some things sound very pious, spiritual, and holy but are in fact hypocritical, boastful, and self-centered. Paul addressed such matters in Colossians. Chapter two, verse 18 says “Let no man rob you of your prize by a *voluntary humility* and worshipping of the angels, dwelling in the things which he hath seen, *vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.*” Note what Paul calls a “voluntary humility,” in other words, FALSE humility. Such is a part of what he calls in verse 22 as “the precepts and doctrines of men.” What do the doctrines of men and their false humility really amount to? Verse 23 is the answer: “Which things have indeed a *show* of wisdom in will-worship, and humility, and severity to the body; but are *not of any value* against the indulgence of the flesh.” Self imposed doctrines and so-called humility is just a show, a put-on religion.

Some of this self-appointed, false piety is addressed by Jesus in Matthew 23. Here, coupled with the hypocrisy of such things is the self-centered boastfulness of “titles” and the desire to be recognized by those whom these “titled” people believe are in a “lower station.” There are four descriptions found in verses 1-7 that amount to what Jesus says in verse 12 as merely exalting self. Such attitudes are contrary to plain Bible teaching on humility. First, note the hypocrisy of verse three: “All things therefore whatsoever they bid you, do and observe; but do not ye after their works; for *they say, and do not.*” So many “religious” people are saying one thing, yet portraying quite another. Jesus calls this hypocrisy seven times in this chapter. The word hypocrite means play-actor. What a shame and a sham that so many people are just play-actors when it comes to their religion.

Verse five shows these people to be boastful. Doing their “religious” acts merely to be seen by others. Then in verse six, we see them as rather self-centered: they want to be seen

and set into the midst of whatever is going on. Finally, they want recognition (verse seven) and to be greeted.

Between these four descriptions (hypocrisy, boastful, self-centered, and desiring recognition) and the charge of exalting themselves in verse 12, there is instruction on how to avoid these four ungodly characteristics. This instruction, verses 8-10, decries how “titles” contribute to hypocrisy and exaltation. First Jesus says be not called Rabbi. The rabbi was a teacher, but not merely an instructor. Rabbis were the doctors of the law. Many of the scribes and Pharisees were rabbis. Jesus said that the use of such a term (rabbi, or in our culture and vernacular, “Doctor”) merely to place oneself above another, or for special recognition, was boastful exaltation and to be avoided.

Second, verse nine says call no man “father” on earth. This is not referring to our dads but to a religious title. Only one deserves this spiritual title: God in Heaven. When men wear this title, they violate this passage and are placing themselves in God’s exalted position. This is why Jesus said such men would be humbled (verse 12).

Finally there is verse 10 wherein Jesus makes clear that He is the Master, and none other should call himself that. To do so is to exalt oneself above his or her rightful place and again be guilty of the prohibitions Jesus is pronouncing here.

Closely linked with these thoughts is the consideration one should make with reference to the “religious name” one wears personally. Do denominational names indicate anything? Certainly. Denominational names will strongly indicate what one believes or has been taught. If one refers to himself as a Baptist, Methodist, or Catholic, they are indicating an agreement with that particular denomination’s doctrines and practices. A Methodist would not call himself a Catholic, nor would a Baptist call himself a Lutheran. What does the Bible teach about such things? Paul shows this to be divisive when he told the Christians at Corinth “Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you...now this I mean, that each one of you saith I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ” (1:10,12). He expressly states there ought not to be this type of division and distinction among God’s people. So, what does God want His people to be called? Luke tells us “the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch” (Acts 11.26). In fact, Peter tells us “if a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name” (1 Peter 4.16).

In conclusion, Jesus, Peter and Paul are all teaching us that religious titles are out of place either because they exalt one above his place, because they place one in the exalted role of deity, which no human can attain, or they promote division which God forbids. Men ought not to call themselves “reverend” or “rabbi” or “master” or “doctor” (in a religious sense) in order to call attention to themselves or their role or their education. Friends, let us just consider ourselves as the Lord has done: equal, one in Christ as Christians. Thanks for reading. May God bless you in your study of His word.

Observations and Concerns

January 24, 2024

Welcome Visitors! We are delighted to have you as our guests.

Praise in Psalm: “O LORD, how great are thy works! *and* thy thoughts are very deep” (Psalm 92:5).

Declaration of Appreciation: We are thankful for parents and grandparents who prepare their young ones for Bible class and worship.

Kathy Orr responded to the invitation Sunday morning asking for prayers.

There will be a **youth devo** on Friday evening, February 2nd at 6:00 at the home of the Swearingens. Please bring a side or sweet to go with chili.

The Wednesday evening adult Bible class will be watching the third video on **Personal Evangelism** by Rob Whitacre. The title of this lesson is *Let’s Stay with the Manner*.

There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for our in-house lectureship. This year’s lectureship is scheduled for March 22-24, and the theme is **Conversions in Acts**.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ We are thankful to God that the results of **Sammy Gray’s** biopsy revealed he does not have cancer. He will see his doctor again in six months.
- ▶ **Andy and Nelda Hudson** have been struggling with health issues.
- ▶ **Dicie Jackson** had a CT scan that revealed two spots on her lungs. The doctors plan to re-scan in three months.
- ▶ **Spencer Mashburn** and **Caroline Swearingen** have both recently had their tonsils and adenoids removed. They are recovering at home.
- ▶ **Pat Gray**, sister-in-law of Sammy and Nelda, suffered a heart attack last weekend. She is recovering at home.
- ▶ **Betty Jackson**, daughter-in-law of Walter, fell and is now in a wheelchair due to her injuries.
- ▶ **Mary Kay Hope**, acquaintance of the Swearingens, was in a car accident and is in a lot of pain.
- ▶ **Bill Roach**, an elder at the Owasso congregation, has cancer.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, Jan. 24	Sunday, Jan. 28 AM	Sunday, Jan. 28 PM
Sundays			
Bible Classes . . . 9:30 AM	Ross Swearingen	Chuck Northrop	Doyle Jackson
Worship 10:30 AM	Ross Swearingen	Chuck Northrop	Doyle Jackson
Worship 5:00 PM	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks
Wednesdays			
Bible Classes . . 7:00 PM	Doyle Jackson	Chuck Northrop	Chuck Northrop
Website: oologahcofc.org	Lesson	Bill Dilks	Doyle Jackson
	Prayer	Chris Nelson	Bill Dilks
	Door Attendant	Chris Nelson	Chris Nelson
		Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen